on the 6th May, 1997 regarding non-payment of statutory post-retirement dues to the employees of CPSUs;

(b) whether the memorandum referred to a decision taken in meeting held on the 5th December, 1996 convened by the Labour Minister, where Minister of Finance was also present, to submit a note for consideration of the Cabinet in order to resolve the issue; and

(c) whether the above note has been considered by the Cabinet, if not, the reasons therefor and the date by which the Cabinet is likely to take a decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes Sir.

(c) The Note on non-payment of statutory dues to the employees of CPSUs was considered by the Cabinet on 19th July 1997. The Cabinet decided to set up a sub-committee comprising Minister of Agriculture as (Chairman) of the Committee, Minister of Finance and Minister of State for Labour as members to further consider the issue.

Demands of Workers of Rourkela Steel Plant

1007. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of th problems of workers engaged in Rourkela Steel Plant;

(b) whether they have demanded an increase in their monthly wages;

(c) if so, what are the various problems of the workers of the Plant;

(d) the demands made by them; and

(e) the steps taken to consider their demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam.

(c) to (e) The demands of workers of Rurkela Steel Plant which have been raised by Unions inter-alia include:—

(i) Standardisation of Wages/Service conditions in Steel Industry

(ii) Reduction in hours of work without loss in present emoluments

(iii) Revision of minimum wages

(iv) Revision of wage structure

(v) Revision of Dearness Allowance

(vi) Revision of Incentive Bonus Scheme

(vii) Revision of Retiring Gratuity

The Ministry of Steel has informed that the issues raised by the Unions fall within the ambit of negotiations at the apex level bipartite forum called the National Joint Committee for the Steel Industry. The last agreement signed by the Committee w.e.f. 1.1.92 expired in the end of 1996. Negotiations have already commenced to reach an understanding on the wage revision.

Industry Workers under ESI Scheme in Karnataka

1008. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of industrial workers covered under ESI Scheme at present in Karnataka and the precentage of increase in coverage taking place over the last five years;

(b) the number of ESI hospitals and dispensaries in that State, district-wise, as on date and those proposed to be set-up during the next one year;

(c) whether Government have received a number of suggestions for changes in the Scheme; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government propose to cover workers engaged in the unorganised sectors under the Scheme; if so, whether any census of workers in unorganised sector is being undertaken; if so, the details thereof?